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Forty-fifth session

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE FORTY-SIXTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 21 November 1990, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. MOUSSA (Egypt)
(Vice-President)

- Critical economic situation in Africa [152] (continued)

  (a) United Nations programme of action for African economic recovery and development 1986-1990

  (b) Report of the United Nations Secretary-General's Expert Group on African Commodity Problems

  (c) African charter for popular participation in development and transformation

  (d) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Secretary-General's Expert Group on African Commodity Problems

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(e) Draft resolutions

Election to fill vacancies in principal organs [15] (continued)

(b) Election of eighteen members of the Economic and Social Council

In the absence of the President, Mr. Moussa (Egypt), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.30 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 152 (continued)

CRITICAL ECONOMIC SITUATION IN AFRICA

(a) UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR AFRICAN ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND DEVELOPMENT 1986-1990

(b) REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL'S EXPERT GROUP ON AFRICAN COMMODITY PROBLEMS

(c) AFRICAN CHARTER FOR POPULAR PARTICIPATION IN DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSFORMATION

(d) NOTE BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TRANSMITTING THE REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL'S EXPERT GROUP ON AFRICAN COMMODITY PROBLEMS (A/45/581 and Add.1)

(e) DRAFT RESOLUTIONS (A/45/L.20, A/45/L.21 and Corr.1, A/45/L.22)

Mr. KUDRIAVTSEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Among the issues involved in the building of a stable and just world order, pride of place goes to the development of a constructive dialogue on ways and means of dealing with the critical economic situation in Africa. An effective solution to this multifaceted problem is a human imperative and an economic requirement in today's interdependent world. It seems to us that, specifically, we should be talking about using tried and true practices and approaches to the solution of this problem and, at the same time, persevering in our search for new ways in which to step up national, regional and subregional efforts by African countries to deal with their economic underdevelopment. We should be talking also about increasing the effectiveness of the international community's support for the actions of those countries and about creating the right domestic conditions to enable them to adapt to the new realities of the world economy.

This year is particularly significant for African peoples. It is 30 years since the process of their accession to independence got fully under way. But

(Mr. Kudriavtsev, USSR)

freedom can be full only if it is supported by economic independence, and it has to be recognized that, unfortunately, the critical economic situation of the continent persists. It is exacerbated by the heavy burden of foreign indebtedness that African countries bear, the unfavourable dynamics of world commodity prices, sharp fluctuations in exchange rates and interest rates, and artificial barriers to international trade. We must mention, also, that efforts to deal with the crisis at the national level have not always been appropriate or effective.

In these circumstances it is the view of the Soviet delegation that the economic problems of the African countries must be resolved within the context of other global problems, taking into account the new possibilities arising from the improvement in the international situation, the process of real disarmament that is now under way, and the need to preserve and restore the environment in order that greater meaning may be given to the social aspects of development.

We in the Soviet Union support the African countries in their desire to deal with their critical economic situation. We support their efforts to create domestic conditions in which to restart economic growth as the basis for progressive development and social progress. In our opinion, the most important factor in this regard is rational utilization of domestic and foreign resources, stimulation of the most effective types of economic activity, and diversification of production.

In respect of such important issues as food self-sufficiency and the creation of production and transport infrastructures these problems can be dealt with to a significant extent by intraregional co-operation. For example, Cameroon, the Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Malawi and Rwanda, by pooling their national efforts, have achieved a significant increase in agricultural production. This has enabled them not only to meet their own requirements but also to establish some reserves, which, where the necessary infrastructure exists, can be used to relieve the critical food

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situation in other African countries. Increased regional co-operation to encourage specialization of production and increased co-operation in the area of agricultural production, storage and processing would be very beneficial in the long term.

While advocating internationalization of approaches to this problem of indebtedness, including the indebtedness of the African countries, the Soviet Union considers it necessary to move immediately towards agreement on general principles to be applied in dealing with the debt situation. This would involve establishing the political frameworks for subsequent specific negotiations between creditors and debtors, while allowing for differences and adopting a case-by-case approach. In this process an important role could be played, within and outside the United Nations system, by multilateral co-ordination of aid and debt settlement. Following this conceptual approach, the Soviet Union is taking specific steps, within the context of bilateral inter-State relations, to ease the debt burden of sub-Saharan African countries, especially the poorest of those countries.

We want to make it quite clear that the problems of transition that face our country are indeed difficult, as is the radical restructuring of our domestic and foreign economic mechanisms and the economic system as a whole. However, none of these factors will make us lessen the attention that we devote to Africa. On the contrary, opening up our enormous economic potential through the broad introduction of market-economy mechanisms will eventually produce new opportunities for trade and economic ties with countries in the continent and will provide the necessary flexibility, streamlining and receptivity to the quickly changing realities of the world today.

With the removal of the shackles and artificial barriers of administrative centralization, economic co-operation between the Soviet Union and African and many other developing countries will become more effective and, therefore, more responsive to the interests of both parties and more helpful to human welfare. The

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(Mr. Kudriavtsev, USSR)

Soviet Union is willing to co-operate in efforts to resolve the problems of African countries on a bilateral and on a multilateral basis, using all available means to that end and taking account of the realities of the processes occurring in the economies of the Soviet Union and our partners.

Soviet-African trade and economic co-operation will involve to a greater extent the private sector of the African countries, as well as such new elements in the Soviet Union's foreign economic activity as independent enterprises and co-operatives. Of course, both sides could benefit from greater use of commercial credits to finance projects in African countries.

Traditionally, training has been an important aspect of our co-operation. Soviet educational institutions at the higher and middle levels have trained more than 40,000 specialists to work in various areas of the economies of African States. There are in Africa about 12,000 Soviet specialists, including 800 seconded on a cost-free basis through the Africa Fund. Certainly this aspect of our relations with Africa will not diminish over the years; in fact, the Soviet Union intends to give it increased attention.

In conclusion, I should like to say that, with a view to strengthening the complementary efforts at the national, bilateral and multilateral levels in the interests of socio-economic development and harmonization of the complementary rights and duties of developed and developing countries, due account must be taken of the environmental protection factor. In our view, if the African countries proceed in these general directions, and if they work hand in hand with the world community, they will be able to emerge from their economic crisis. The road will indeed be hard, and those countries will be able to follow it only with a common effort, perseverence, patience and willingness to compromise if necessary. The Soviet Union, for its part, will do everything it can to facilitate movement in that direction.

Mr. MOORE (United States of America): Africans bear more than their share of the world's misfortune. Wars, famine and disease are visited upon them with horrifying frequency. Widespread poverty on the continent seems entrenched, all the more so after the generally disappointing decade of the 1980s. There are glimmers of hope, some in what might seem to be unlikely places, but the short-term outlook for Africa is decidedly mixed.

The United States believes it important to comment on this agenda item regarding the critical economic situation in Africa. The United States continues to be a major donor to the development efforts in Africa. Through the Development Fund for Africa under our foreign aid legislation, we are budgeting some $800 million for fiscal year 1991, a sum which exceeds last year's total by about $200 million. This amount does not include food aid, in which the United States continues to be the largest donor. Our commitment to Africa thus remains steadfast despite the concerns about competing demands for new resources resulting from developments in Eastern Europe.

The problems of Africa are largely those of the least developed countries. Nevertheless, there are certain issues which are especially relevant to the African situation. Problems of commodity diversification, regional integration, availability of credit and land, privatization, the role of women, and popular participation in both economic and political life all have a special importance for Africa.

These issues are all addressed in the African Charter, formulated at Arusha in February 1990, which devotes particular attention to the need for popular participation both as an end in itself and as a means to good government and economic prosperity. We commend the participants in the Arusha Conference for their courageous recognition of the primacy of democratic institutions in the economic development process. A corollary to the Charter's advocacy of such

(Mr. Moore, United States)

institutions is its endorsement of grassroots organizations such as rural credit unions, and of indigenous African non-governmental organizations. Even more fundamental is the recognition given to the inviolability of basic human rights, including freedom of the press. We strongly support the Charter's conclusions in these areas.

Among the fundamental rights highlighted in the Charter is the right of women to fair treatment under the law. Women in Africa have long managed essential responsibilities, acting as "producers, mothers, active community mobilizers, and custodians of culture". The Charter is right in noting that it is time for their contributions to be recognized and for their particular circumstances to be considered in development planning.

In discussing the problems of development planning this fall, many delegates have remarked on the importance of a human-centred development strategy. While this notion may be susceptible to a number of interpretations, it is clear that one type of strategy it excludes is large expenditures on military forces. These expenditures run directly counter to the aims of economic development, both because they all-too-frequently lead to massive destruction and because they siphon off resources that could be used for productive investment or for answering basic human needs. The importance of reducing excessive military expenditures is expressed in the African Charter, which properly calls upon African nations to redirect defence budgets towards development programmes.

In lieu of regional confrontation, the Charter proposes regional co-operation. This is an idea whose time has come. There can be little doubt that the lack of rapid economic development in Africa has been largely due to the relatively small size of domestic markets, in conjunction with the difficulty of doing business across national borders. Much of the recent work in economics has

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shown the importance to incipient industries of having access to a sizeable domestic market. The success of the European Community and other tariff unions further attests to the economic benefits of lowered trade barriers and good intraregional transportation and communication.

While much of the African Charter is both innovative and perceptive, my delegation feels that there are problems in the Charter's approach to structural adjustment. We understand how difficult implementing structural adjustment is, but the African alternative framework to structural adjustment programmes which the Charter advocates seems to us to be founded on certain questionable assumptions. One of these is that free market solutions to economic problems are not as applicable to Africa as they are to other parts of the world. A corollary to this assumption is the notion that State control of pricing and distribution is more warranted in the African context than elsewhere. Over the past three decades these beliefs have led, at various times, to the rise of large black markets and to distortions and inefficiencies in the formal sectors of domestic economies.

Another problematic assumption underlying the framework is that international financial institutions do not give adequate consideration to the human consequences of structural adjustment programmes. While it is true that economic reform often requires what we hope will be only short-term rises in relative food prices and unemployment, and while it may even be true that some past reform efforts have been heavy-handed, it is clear now that both the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank give special consideration to the human impact of structural adjustment and that they are attempting to direct their aid efforts accordingly. There are now a number of successful experiences and studies, in Africa and elsewhere, which attest to the effectiveness of such programmes.

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For many African nations trade in primary commodities still furnishes the largest share of export revenues, in spite of efforts to diversify. This is often a risky business because demand for unprocessed raw materials tends to be quite inelastic. Prices for these goods are thus sensitive to fluctuations in supply. Citing this price volatility, and at times the deteriorating terms of trade, as justification, some producer nations have entered into supply cartels. Such accords have generally failed.

While the short-term prospects for the African continent are indeed worrying, both the African Charter and the Report on commodity problems provide encouragement that Africa's leaders are taking a creative and open-minded approach to solving the region's most pressing problems. The United States, for its part, will continue its long-standing efforts to provide co-operation and assistance to the continent's developing nations.

Ms. CHAN (Singapore): Keen students of development have doubtless addressed the question of why it is that some countries or continents have succeeded in economic development whilst others have failed. On prima facie grounds alone, Africa should be a great success story. It is a rich continent well endowed with immense natural and human resources.

African States have themselves addressed this problem. For instance, in 1980 the Assembly of Heads of State or Government of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) adopted the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos. In July 1985, following a review of the implementation of the Lagos Plan, the Assembly adopted Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1985-1990. In 1987 the General Assembly adopted the Common Position on Africa's External Debt Crisis. Despite these and other efforts, Africa has remained the poorest and the least developed continent in the world. Today Africa has the greatest number of least developed countries in the world. That number has grown from 14 in 1979 to 28 in 1990. As President Masire of Botswana stated recently at the Maastricht Conference on Africa:

> "The pace of development in most African nations has been deteriorating over the last decade, and in some cases the decline has reached frightening proportions".

The factors underlying Africa's dismal economic situation are well documented. Both internal and external factors have contributed to Africa's economic stagnation. These include the dependence of the African economies on a small number of primary agricultural and mineral commodities; the prices of which have collapsed in recent years; lack of access for African goods and commodities to the markets of the developed economies; Africa's large external debt as compared to its total gross domestic product, rapid population growth, which has outstripped

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the economic growth of the continent; drought and famine, which have affected many countries; and low investment flows.

The end of the cold war has not brought with it any assurances of greater financial assistance for the African countries. On the contrary, it has raised widespread concern among African countries, and for that matter among other developing countries as well, that the West will concentrate its financial assistance and investment flows in Eastern Europe, to the detriment of Africa, Latin America and Asia. The volume of assistance and the speed at which it is organized by the industrialized West for the Eastern European economies, when compared with the slow pace of desperately needed debt relief and resource inflows for Africa, has only added to these fears. The Gulf crisis and the concomitant increase in oil-import bills has further exacerbated the situation for African countries.

The grave economic situation facing the African continent should be considered an item of the highest priority on the United Nations agenda. It would be morally irresponsible of us not to do so. Moreover, given the interdependence of nations, there would likely be adverse consequences for the entire world community if Africa were left to continue to slide into even greater poverty. From a more positive perspective, the economic recovery of Africa can benefit not only its citizens but also the rest of the world. With vast natural resources and a total population of approximately 650 million, Africa has a great untapped potential to offer to the rest of the world. A prosperous Africa would, through the multiplier effect, help increase world economic growth by providing new and untapped markets as well as opportunities for new investments from the North.

The attainment of economic recovery and development in Africa will depend on both the domestic policies and a supportive external environment. An improvement

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in the external environment that would be conducive to the acceleration of development would involve, in particular, an increased net inflow of resources, an improvement in the level of prices fetched by commodities exported by Africa in the world markets, favourable terms of trade, in particular increased access to the markets of the industralized countries, and a reduction of Africa's external debt. Africa cannot be expected to increase its agricultural and non-agricultural exports or to make any significant progress in its diversification efforts if its products are not given access to the markets of the industrialized countries. The successful outcome of the Uruguay Round is therefore vital for Africa's economic recovery. Similarly, unless long-term measures are taken to reduce Africa's debt, the continent will find it difficult to register economic growth. In this regard, we are encouraged by the position taken by some of the industrialized countries: to write off official development assistance debts owed by the least developed countries, most of which are African.

At the same time, African countries should also undertake domestic policy reforms, in order to accelerate their economic recovery. Indeed, many African countries are already undertaking fundamental structural changes in their economies. In fact, most of them recognize that the primary responsibility for Africa's development rests with its own people and their leaders. The remaining outstanding issues revolve around the nature of the changes required and how they should be brought about. One thing which is clear is that no domestic policy reforms will work unless they are, and are seen to be, nationally inspired. In this context, it is worth noting that African leaders have sought to set their own economies on a secure footing by adopting structural-adjustment measures. So far, over 30 African countries have adopted structural-adjustment programmes in one form or another. These measures have been taken at enormous social and economic costs

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and great political risk. Their efforts should be commended and matched with appropriate support from the international community.

Singapore, like so many Members of the United Nations, would like to see the emergence of a just and equal world order in the post-cold-war era. Towards that end, we support all efforts of the United Nations to assist Africa in achieving economic recovery and growth. In our own small way we are also prepared to share our development experience with the African countries which are interested, as well as co-operating with them through economic co-operation among those countries and technical co-operation among developing countries. We share the view expressed by Mr. Salim Ahmed Salim, Secretary-General of the OAU, at the recent Paul Hoffman lecture in New York that:

> "The overwhelming majority of African people are hardworking people who have a desire to take care of their lives and to improve their state of living. With this spirit, the African development problems are not insurmountable. They can be overcome. With the creation of an enabling political environment, proper planning and foresight, African people can bring about economic development in the 1990s and face the challenges of the next century with confidence".

The deliberations on this agenda item provide us with an important opportunity to take stock of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development one year before the final review. We hope that these deliberations and the final review that we shall be undertaking next year will generate more concrete and action-oriented proposals which will lead to the economic recovery of Africa and prepare the continent for the challenges that lie ahead. The people of Africa deserve no less.

Mr. NAVAJAS MOGRO (Bolivia) (interpretation from Spanish): The Group of 77, over which I have the honour to preside this year, feels that it must, in keeping with the aspirations of its member countries to development and well-being, participate in this debate in the General Assembly on agenda item 152 in order to express its firm support for and solidarity with the African countries participating in the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990.

Today, more than ever, in view of the growing interdependence of international relations, no country can distance itself from the efforts of any other country, much less that of an important group of countries, to emerge from a state of economic prostration and underdevelopment. This is all the more obvious bearing in mind that some of the countries of Africa have been and continue to be the victims of natural disasters of great severity and long duration that not only undermine the foundations on which their development must be based, but cause unprecedented human suffering that cannot be disregarded in today's world.

Most of the countries in the Group of 77, impoverished as never before, are engaged in a dramatic struggle, fraught with sacrifice, to overcome our poverty and underdevelopment. For this reason, we can identify with the legitimate aspirations of the countries of Africa, which are also the aspirations of all developing countries, and for this reason we give our full support in the achievement of the objectives set out in the Programme of Action.

This is the fifth and last year of the Programme. It was quite natural that a time-limit, of necessity arbitrary, was set, and that limit is reached this year. But we must ask ourselves whether, within that period, the aims and purposes that underlay the Programme have been achieved. In other words, as the Programme of Action comes to an end, can we say that the underdevelopment that prompted its initiation is also coming to an end? We must ask ourselves whether the Programme

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has generated recovery and development in Africa, or at least imparted a strong enough impetus to trigger the revitalization and self-sustaining progress of the countries of the African continent.

Regrettably, we believe that this is not the case, for, if we compare the aims of the Programme of Action with its results after these five short years, if we compare those results with the still very clear needs of the peoples of Africa, we must conclude that there are no grounds for optimism. According to World Bank data, in the past two years there has been only modest, uneven recovery. Measured in economic terms by per capita income, the modest recovery reflected in the statistics pales in comparison with the existing reality, which is in most cases a situation of stagnation, if not regression.

Furthermore we see with disquiet the threatening clouds looming over the developing countries, particularly the lowest-income countries, as a consequence of the crisis in the Gulf. We believe that a thorough review of the Programme of Action is necessary, from the standpoint of unsatisfied needs, stunted development and continued international co-operation for the development of Africa, which will continue to be necessary after the arbitrary date of 1990.

Let us examine the reality described so clearly by speakers who have preceded me, in particular the Ambassador of Uganda. It is worth recalling that only 23 per cent of Africans have access to drinking water, that there is only one doctor per 24,000 people, and that infant mortality is at an alarming level. We should also recall that most of the low-income countries suffering a very heavy debt burden are in Africa and that 28 of the 43 least developed countries are also in Africa.

It is thus vitally necessary for us to redouble our efforts to remedy this unjust situation and to do so now, within the framework of the Declaration and the Programme of Action adopted at the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed

(Mr. Navajas Mogro, Bolivia)

Countries in Paris last September. In this context it is of primary importance and essential to find a swift and lasting solution to the crushing problems of external debt and the problem of commodities, with particular regard to prices and access to export markets.

It must be stressed that, among the development and recovery needs under the Programme of Action and within the dynamic process of development, international trade is of major importance. The opportunities for countries to sell their products without any limits other than those set by their own productivity, within the development-trade equation, were the subject of a study by a Group of Experts set up by the Secretary-General at the request of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity (OAU). The Experts' report was well received and contains recommendations that will prove valuable provided they are properly fulfilled and given practical application. It is therefore necessary to ensure that they are fulfilled by providing the appropriate elements and, at the same time, filling certain gaps that have been detected in the report.

The African region is committed to promoting popular participation in the process of development and transformation on the basis of its tremendous human potential, which is undoubtedly a mainstay of its development, as is recognized in the African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and Transformation, adopted in Arusha.

With regard to the endeavours to ensure proper implementation of the Programme of Action, it is only fair to recognize the efforts of the Secretary-General to mobilize the support of international organizations for the Programme. On behalf of the Secretary-General, the Director-General of the OAU presides over a governing committee in which the OAU and non-governmental organizations are active participants.

(Mr. Navajas Mogro, Bolivia)

The Programme of Action should not be seen in the short-term context of crisis control but as a catalytic boost in the long-term to the development of a whole continent. We believe that this approach and outlook should guide our discussions on this important issue in the review exercise that we are beginning. For this reason, we hope that the Secretary-General's report on the Programme of Action not only will be retrospective in terms of its implementation, but will determine guidelines and contain recommendations on the kind of support that Africa needs and hopes to get from international organizations and the international community for the rest of the decade.

The PRESIDENT: We have heard the last speaker in the debate on this item.

Action on draft resolutions A/45/L.20, A/45/L.21 and Corr.1 and A/45/L.22 will be taken at a later date, which will be announced.

AGENDA ITEM 15 (continued)

ELECTIONS TO FILL VACANCIES IN PRINCIPAL ORGANS

(b) ELECTIONS OF EIGHTEEN MEMBERS OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

The PRESIDENT: As representatives will recall, at its 41st plenary meeting, on Friday, 16 November, the Assembly elected 17 members of the Council for a three year term beginning on 1 January 1991.

As the result of the third restricted ballot held at that meeting was inconclusive and since one seat still remains to be filled from among the Asian states, we shall now proceed to the first unrestricted ballot. This fifth round of balloting is being held in accordance with rule 94 of the rules of procedure.

May I remind the Assembly that, pursuant to rule 94, votes may be cast for any eligible Member from the Asian States. The Members from the Asian States that are not eligible are those that are already members of the Economic and Social Council as well as those that were elected on 16 November 1990. The names of the Members that are not eligible for election in the present balloting are: Bahrain, China, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Japan, Jordan, Malaysia, Pakistan and Thailand.

I now call on the representative of Cyprus, who wishes to make a statement.

Mr. MAVROMMATIS (Cyprus): Upon instructions from my Government, I should like to announce that Cyprus is no longer a candidate in the elections for the remaining Economic and Social Council seat. Therefore, our candidacy is hereby withdrawn - and, if I am permitted to say so during an unrestricted election, in favour of our neighbour and friend the Syrian Arab Republic.

(Mr. Mavrommatis, Cyprus)

As a matter of fact, last Friday when we had the first round of voting we agreed to a suspension of the meeting in order to seek instructions to withdraw because we felt that we should not continue and appear to be fighting it out, as it were, with the Syrian Arab Republic, a friendly country, which has been endorsed by the Asian Group.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of Cyprus for his co-operation.

I now call on the representative of Myanmar.

Mr. TUN (Myanmar): As delegations are aware, Myanmar was a candidate for election to the Economic and Social Council at the elections held on Friday, 16 November. Our candidature was presented in the conviction that we could contribute effectively to the work of that important body, and also because we have never had the opportunity to serve on the Council since we joined the United Nations in 1948. In view of the fact that only one vacancy remains to be filled today, and as the Syrian Arab Republic is the only candidate endorsed by the Asian Group, we wish to reaffirm our support for that friendly country and to announce the withdrawal of our own candidature.

May I take this opportunity to express our gratitude and appreciation to all delegations who have given their support to our candidature.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of Myanmar for his co-operation.

I now call on the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic.

Mr. EL-FATTAL (Syrian Arab Republic) (interpretation from Arabic): In accordance with the General Assembly's rules of procedure, I should like to delay the proceedings for a moment in order to thank the Ambassadors of Cyprus and Myanmar for withdrawing their countries' candidacies in favour of the Syrian Arab Republic.

The PRESIDENT: Taking into account the statements made by the representatives of Cyprus and Myanmar, we shall now proceed to the first unrestricted ballot.

The ballot papers will now be distributed.

I would request representatives to write on the ballot papers the name of the State from among the Asian States for which they wish to vote. Ballot papers bearing more than one name or the name of a State outside the region or the name of a State not eligible will be declared invalid.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Panov (Bulgaria), Mr. N'Cho (Côte d'Ivoire), Mr. Conmy (Ireland) and Ms. Dreyfus (Nicaragua) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The meeting was suspended at 4.25 p.m. and resumed at 4.35 p.m.

The PRESIDENT: The result of the voting is as follows:

Number of ballot papers:	146
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	146
Abstentions:	6
Number of members voting:	140
Required two-thirds majority:	94
Number of votes obtained:	
Syrian Arab Republic	131
Cyprus	5
Kuwait	1
Mongolia	1
Myanmar	1
Saudi Arabia	1

The Syrian Arab Republic, having obtained the required two-thirds majority, was elected a member of the Economic and Social Council for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1991.

The PRESIDENT: I congratulate the Syrian Arab Republic, which has just been elected a member of the Economic and Social Council, and I thank the tellers for their assistance in this election.

We have thus concluded our consideration of agenda item 15 (b).

The meeting rose at 4.40 p.m.

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5 December 1990

ENGLISH

Forty-fifth session

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE FORTY-SEVENTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Tuesday, 27 November 1990, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. de MARCO (Malta)

- Zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic [31]

  (a) Report of the Secretary-General

  (b) Draft resolution

- Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs [16]

  (a) Election of members of the World Food Council

  (i) Election of twelve members: note by the Secretary-General

  (ii) Election of a member to fill a casual vacancy: note by the Secretary-General

  (b) Election of twenty members of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination: note by the Secretary-General

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- Notification by the Secretary-General under Article 12, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations: note by the Secretary-General [7] (continued)

- Programme of work

The meeting was called to order at 10.25 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 31

ZONE OF PEACE AND CO-OPERATION OF THE SOUTH ATLANTIC

(a) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/45/653)

(b) DRAFT RESOLUTION (A/45/L.23)

The PRESIDENT: I call first on the representative of Nigeria, who will introduce draft resolution A/45/L.23 in the course of his statement.

Mr. ADEYEMI (Nigeria): The Nigerian delegation congratulates you, Sir, on the effective manner in which you have been presiding over the affairs of the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly. We are confident that during your tenure there will be important contributions in our collective efforts to enhance international peace and security, as well as to promote international co-operation in the concerted drive towards global sustainable growth and development.

Nigeria continues to be proudly associated with the existence of the zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic, which is now being considered in this forum under agenda item 31. We praise the wisdom and foresight that led to resolution 41/11, which declared the zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic on 27 October 1986. Nigeria believes that in its four years of existence, the zone has played a significant role in fostering regional co-operation and security through greater political understanding and socio-economic collaboration. The positive developments in international relations, particularly over the past year, which we welcome heartily, attest to the complementary link between regional co-operation and international peace and security in all its ramifications. Nigeria will thus continue to be steadfastly dedicated to the fullest realization of the aspirations and objectives of the zone.

(Mr. Adeyemi, Nigeria)

In its resolution 44/20, of 14 November 1989, the General Assembly, among other things, noted with appreciation the efforts of the States of the zone towards fulfilling the goals of the declaration. The resolution also called on all States to co-operate in the promotion of the objectives of peace and co-operation established in the declaration. In this regard, it is pertinent to recall important developments since 1989 which have combined to strengthen the zone and the efforts to achieve its goals.

First, one epoch-making event recorded in the zone is the attainment of independence by Namibia last March, under the auspices of the United Nations, after decades of colonialism and illegal occupation by apartheid South Africa. Since then, Namibia has been admitted as a member of the zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic, which constitutes the realization of the hope expressed in paragraph 3 of resolution 44/20 of last year. Nigeria takes this opportunity to congratulate the people of Namibia once again on their heroic struggle for emancipation, leading to sovereignty. We also wish to thank the United Nations and the international community for their unwavering support for the cause of justice and freedom for the Namibian people.

Secondly, the States of the zone, in further demonstration of concrete co-operation, held a seminar by a group of experts in Brazzaville, Congo, from 12 to 15 June 1990, which was devoted to the review of the developments and implementation of the legal régime established by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea as it affects the zone. At the seminar the various maritime profiles of the States of the zone were discussed and agreement on the priority

(Mr. Adeyemi, Nigeria)

areas of co-operation was reached. Specific attention was focused on the areas of harmonization of national legislation in the context of the provisions of the Convention on the Law of the Sea; the need for States to review their national maritime policies with a view to developing bilateral, subregional and regional co-operation; a review of co-operation in the evaluation of living and non-living resources and appraisal of the resources required to assist States of the zone to derive the maximum benefits from maritime space through intensified co-operation; the development of co-operation in the acquisition of scientific information and data on the marine environment; and measures that could be taken to protect and preserve the marine environment on the basis of resource complementarities among States belonging to the same region.

(Mr. Adeyemi, Nigeria)

Other priorities related to the need to build on the knowledge used in maritime-boundary delimitation by mutual agreement of the countries concerned; the development of the expertise and technology needed to exploit marine resources, including sea-bed resources, beyond the limits of national jurisdiction; and consideration of measures to be taken to increase and intensify the training of personnel by using the facilities of member States, as well as consideration of the possibilities for convening a regional conference that would adopt common rules and regulations concerning the protection of the marine environment in the zone.

My delegation wishes to pay special tribute to the Office for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea and to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for the valuable assistance extended in connection with the convening of the Brazzaville seminar. We look forward to the successful convening of the second leg of the meeting, which is scheduled to take place in Uruguay in April 1991.

Thirdly, the States of the zone held their second high-level political meeting at Abuja, the new federal capital city of Nigeria, from 25 to 29 June 1990. At that meeting, important agreements were reached on various aspects of the zone. The Final Document of the second meeting is contained in United Nations document A/45/474 of 4 September 1990.

Building on the blocks laid at the first meeting of the zone, which was held at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in July 1988, the Abuja meeting was a significant landmark in the conscious and determined efforts of the States of the zone to promote peace and regional co-operation and to lay the foundation for progress and development in the years ahead. While the first meeting, in 1988, enunciated the high principles and guidelines for the zone, the second meeting took concrete steps forward to translate those high principles and objectives into positive, practical action and, thus, forge lasting peace and progress in the South Atlantic region.

(Mr. Adeyemi, Nigeria)

The Final Document of the second meeting at Abuja recorded key decisions and mapped out several plans to indicate the way forward in the years to come. Starting from the home front, the States of the zone expressed concern over a number of internal armed conflicts and crisis situations that continue to pose a grave potential threat to the peace of the region and its peoples. States members of the zone therefore urged the speedy peaceful resolution of such conflicts or situations and manifested their resolve to support all initiatives conducive to that end.

In its Final Document, adopted at Abuja, the States of the zone welcomed the relaxation of international tension and the reduction of confrontation between the two super-Powers and their allies, while expressing the hope that these trends would have positive implications for attainment of the objectives of the zone. The States also expressed the hope that the new and encouraging developments in Europe would not adversely affect the co-operation extended to the countries of the region by the industrialized countries but, rather, would enhance their capacity and political will to increase those co-operative ties.

With regard to South Africa, the States of the zone noted that some positive developments are taking place and that these offer prospects for movement away from apartheid, but maintained that sanctions should continue until the core repressive laws that sustain the apartheid régime have been completely eliminated and the momentum towards the establishment of a non-racial and democratic South Africa is irreversibly secured.

In welcoming Namibia as a member of the zone, the States members of the zone recognized the international community's positive contribution to that country's attainment of independence, but also reaffirmed support for their role in Namibia's post-independence construction. The Abuja meeting also reminded the international community of the unresolved issue of Walvia Bay, thus urging it to exert further

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pressure on South Africa to relinquish Walvis Bay, which is an integral part of Namibia, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and the legitimate aspirations of the Namibian people.

The States of the zone also called for the cessation of foreign interference in the internal affairs of Angola, as such interference is hindering the attainment of lasting peace in the region, as well as for the removal of serious obstacles to termination of the existing colonial situation in the Malvinas Islands. They welcomed the re-establishment of diplomatic relations between the United Kingdom and Argentina, and called for the early resumption of negotiations towards a just and durable solution to the dispute between the two States over sovereignty.

Consideration was given to related issues of peace and co-operation in the South Atlantic. In spite of the apparent thaw in East-West relations, combined with the wind of change now sweeping across Eastern Europe, the States of the zone recognized that peace and security in the region are still gravely threatened by the obnoxious apartheid régime in South Africa, whose combined military and nuclear activities continue to pose a threat to the security of the States of the region. The meeting spoke against the proliferation of foreign military and military-related bases in the zone, and urged States to take appropriate steps to adopt a concerted position against the frequent external interference in the affairs of the zone, military rivalry, nuclear-weapons competition and other hostile activities perpetrated in the region by extra-zonal Powers. With a view to enhancing co-operation between member States in the security field, the meeting urged member States with relevant capability to co-operate in establishing joint mechanisms in pursuit of the objectives of the zone.

Other important areas in respect of which the second meeting reached crucial decisions concerned the modalities for co-operation in the commercial, scientific,

(Mr. Adeyemi, Nigeria)

technical and cultural fields. On commerce, the meeting recommended the establishment of an ad hoc group of experts drawn from States members of the zone to study key areas of interest as a way of increasing trade and commercial co-opeation. Furthermore, the meeting called for active co-operation in the regular organization of trade fairs and foreign-investment promotions and for co-ordination of policies on trade through the exchange of information on investment opportunities, as well as commercial and trade-intelligence information. In the area of scientific and technical co-operation, the States of the zone agreed to take the necessary steps to develop the energy, food and fisheries resources of the region. To give effect to this, an ad hoc group of experts drawn from States members of the zone is to be set up. On the cultural plane, member States agreed on the need for effective reappraisal of existing cultural relations in the zone and recommended that practical steps be taken to strengthen cultural contacts and exchanges in respect of literature, university lecturers, students, the promotion of tourism, public information, education and other matters.

No less important are agreements reached on the need for intensified co-operation between States members of the zone on economic and financial questions, such as external indebtedness, trade flows, market access and investment. Member States also associated themselves fully with the framework of decisions taken by the Group of 15 at its first summit meeting on South-South consultations and co-operation, which was held at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in June 1990.

On the question of the environment, our meeting reaffirmed the determination to safeguard the South Atlantic from all sorts of environmental pollution, and it stressed the need for greater co-operation, through the "dumpwatch" mechanism, to eradicate the illegal dumping of hazardous, toxic and other waste products anywhere

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in the South Atlantic. In expressing grave concern over the apparent and continuing deterioration in the marine and terrestrial environment of the zone, member States declared full support for the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, which is scheduled to take place in Brazil in 1992, and urged all States of the zone to work towards a successful outcome.

(Mr. Adeyemi, Nigeria)

The meeting also dwelt on the issue of human rights and expressed the hope that the zone would continue to be an active instrument for fostering human rights, fundamental freedoms, racial equality, justice and liberty as integral elements of peace and co-operation at national and regional levels.

These are some of the major highlights of the numerous important decisions and agreements reached at the Abuja meeting five months ago. Together with other achievements recorded in 1990, as earlier mentioned, the zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic no doubt continues brilliantly to live up to the hopes and aspirations which led to its birth in 1986 in the General Assembly. The States of the zone can indeed be justifiably proud of these achievements, as well as of their individual and collective contributions to this end. We also thank the international community and the United Nations for their solid support for the objectives of the zone.

At the end of the second meeting held at Abuja in June this year, the States members of the zone of peace and co-operation entrusted the Government of Nigeria, as host country of the meeting, with the task of acting as co-ordinator of the affairs of the zone until the next meeting on the zone in 1992. In this capacity Nigeria will be assisted by a Bureau comprising Argentina, Ghana and Brazil. My delegation therefore wishes to thank, once again, other States members of the zone for the honour accorded the Nigerian Government and the confidence reposed in us. We pledge our fullest co-operation, support and service in the challenging task ahead.

The draft resolution before us today, which I therefore have the honour to introduce on this item, entitled "Zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic", document A/45/L.23, combines the appropriate elements from last year's resolution 44/20 with the editorial updates of developments in 1990, as earlier

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enumerated. The first to third preambular paragraphs are virtually the same as those in the resolution of last year. The fourth preambular paragraph is a reflection of the collective wish of the States of the zone, consequent upon the Abuja meeting referred to. A significant addition this year is the sixth preambular paragraph concerning the importance of the South Atlantic to global maritime and commercial transactions and the expression of the determination of States members of the zone to preserve the region for all activities enshrined in international law, including the freedom of navigation on the high seas. This element, we believe, will assuage the concern of one or two delegations which during last year's session expressed reservations about that omission from resolution 44/20. With that concern now eliminated from the present draft resolution, we are confident that those delegations will find it possible to vote in favour of this year's draft resolution.

Operative paragraphs 1 and 2 are routine, while operative paragraphs 3 and 4, on the Abuja meeting and the independence of Namibia, reflect the new developments in 1990, as mentioned earlier. Operative paragraphs 5 and 6 are not new and concern the protection of the South Atlantic environment. Operative paragraphs 7 and 8 concern one of the achievements in 1990 as mentioned earlier, and the areas of assistance being requested from the relevant bodies of the United Nations system for the realization of the objectives of the zone. However, there is a small amendment in operative paragraph 8, in the third line, which substitutes the words "that can be financed" for the words "entitled to financing". Operative paragraph 8 will therefore read as follows:

"Expresses support for the determination of the States of the zone that technical co-operation among developing countries be recognized as activities that can be financed by the United Nations Development Programme, and requests

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the United Nations as well as other relevant international bodies to assist the States of the zone in the realization of their needs in this regard, at their request;".

Operative paragraph 9 is an important text from the Final Document of the second meeting. Lastly, operative paragraphs 10 and 11 follow familiar patterns.

The Secretary-General's report, document A/45/653 of 30 October 1990, has already touched on some of these issues mentioned here, including those that feature in the draft resolution before us. Replies from other States on the implementation of resolution 44/20 contained in the same document also continue to give us the satisfaction of a broad international consensus on the usefulness, viability and effectiveness of the zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic, with increasing importance in the years ahead.

The draft resolution (A/45/L.23) is thus a positive enunciation of these objectives, hopes and aspirations. It is non-contentious, and strives not only to enjoy but also to enhance the support of the international community for the zone as a vital pillar of peace and security and a beacon of hope, co-operation and development in the South Atlantic region.

As a final note, may I add that, while the first conference of senior officials of the zone in Rio de Janeiro in 1988 brought out in ringing and bold clarity the objectives and goals of States members of the zone, then one can justifiably say that the second meeting at Abuja last June succeeded in elaborating, in clear and unambiguous terms, the blueprint for their realization, using mechanisms that are deeply anchored in the political commitment of the States members of the zone. But these noble aspirations can be attained only if the international community lends its unqualified support to those programmes.

(Mr. Adeyemi, Nigeria)

In the circumstances the Nigerian delegation therefore commends draft resolution A/45/L.23 for support and expresses the wish and hope that it will be adopted by the General Assembly this year without a vote as a tribute to these noble initiatives.

Mr. PENNANEACH (Togo) (interpretation from French): Recent developments in the international political situation clearly indicate that the advent of a more stable and prosperous world requires that we constantly give specific form to our common aspiration to strengthen peace and international security and promote mutually advantageous international co-operation.

(Mr. Pennaneach, Togo)

Because the cold war has ended, a fact recently further emphasized by the results of the Paris Summit of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, and because of Namibia's accession to independence, its admission to membership of the United Nations and the beginning of dialogue between the leaders of the African National Congress of South Africa and the South African Government about the dismantling of apartheid, the promotion of peace and co-operation must more than ever head the list of major concerns of the international community. Those positive developments are in harmony with the noble goals set in the declaration of the zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic and can contribute to their full attainment.

Speaking once again this year on agenda item 31, "Zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic", the Togolese delegation wishes both to reiterate the importance its Government attaches to the implementation of the declaration and to contribute to exploring ways and means to turn the South Atlantic into a genuine zone of peace and co-operation.

According to paragraph 64 of the Final Document of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament,

> "The establishment of zones of peace in various regions of the world under appropriate conditions, to be clearly defined and determined freely by the States concerned in the zone, taking into account the characteristics of the zone and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and in conformity with international law, can contribute to strengthening the security of States within such zones and to international peace and security as a whole." (resolution S-10/2, para. 64)

The growing support for resolutions on the zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic gives ample proof of the correctness and relevance of the

(Mr. Pennaneach, Togo)

objectives set out in the declaration, whose full attainment will require the combined efforts of the coastal States of the South Atlantic and States outside the region.

The coastal States of the South Atlantic are fully aware of their prime responsibility for implementing the declaration. That is why ever since the adoption of resolution 41/11 they have made consistent, energetic efforts to attain those goals. Thus, after the first meeting of the States of the zone, held in Rio de Janeiro from 25 to 29 July 1988, had provided the opportunity to lay the conceptual foundations, the second meeting, held in Abuja from 25 to 29 June this year, was able to define specific ways and means to implement the final document of the Rio de Janeiro meeting.

Among the important conclusions of the Abuja meeting, I wish to mention particularly, first, the reaffirmation that questions of peace and security and those of development are interrelated and inseparable; secondly, the appeal for the creation of joint monitoring mechanisms in the South Atlantic, particularly with regard to coastal traffic; the recognition of the importance of enhanced co-operation and co-ordination between member States in the economic, commercial, financial and cultural fields; and, fourthly, the decision to strengthen the machinery for monitoring, collating and disseminating information and data on the movement in the region of vessels suspected of carrying hazardous, toxic and nuclear wastes.

Furthermore, I must refer to the first technical seminar of the group of experts on the law of the sea of the States members of the zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic, held in Brazzaville, Congo, from 12 to 15 June this year, pursuant to a decision of the first meeting of States of the zone and to General Assembly resolution 44/20. That seminar, the first of a series of meetings

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organized periodically to give effect to the Rio de Janeiro final document, enabled experts from the coastal States of the South Atlantic to exchange views and experiences with regard to implementing the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and to identify priority areas covered by the Convention that their States could deal with - of course, with the assistance of the international community.

Therefore, it gives me great pleasure warmly to thank the Secretary-General's Special Representative for the Law of the Sea, Mr. Satya Nandan, and his deputy, Mr. Jean-Pierre Levy, as well as the United Nations Development Programme, for the many ways in which they assisted in the organization and successful outcome of the Brazzaville seminar.

An analysis of the initiatives taken so far by the States of the zone confirms their strong determination to create all the necessary conditions to attain the objectives. The identification of areas for co-operation between member States provides opportunities for action designed to strengthen regional solidarity while guaranteeing complementarity of national economies, the welfare of the peoples of the region, understanding between them and protection of their way of life.

With respect in particular to the protection of the marine environment of the South Atlantic, my Government attaches the highest priority to strengthening the machinery for strict monitoring, collating and disseminating information and data on the movement in the region of vessels suspected of carrying hazardous, toxic and nuclear wastes. In this connection, it is urgently necessary to take steps to prohibit the dumping of wastes.

Here it should be pointed out that as part of its policy to protect its national environment against all forms of degradation, or threats of degradation, the Togolese Government adopted in November 1988 a particularly rigorous

(Mr. Pennaneach, Togo)

environmental code, which, among other things, strictly prohibits the import or transport through the country of toxic and nuclear wastes.

My country also attaches great importance to subregional economic integration as a factor benefitting development and regional equilibrium, since for us peace and development are goals that are inextricably linked.

That is why the Government of Togo has been working tirelessly for the complete success of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). It is why Togo also warmly welcomes the vast process of integration and co-operation that is being undertaken by Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay.

(Mr. Pennaneach, Togo)

Nevertheless, while welcoming these noble initiatives, we must refer to the tragic situation in a coastal State of the South Atlantic: Liberia. In the name of solidarity among the peoples and States in the zone, we cannot remain indifferent to the tragedy now being played out in that country. Therefore, we should support the initiatives undertaken in the framework of ECOWAS to allay the suffering of the Liberian people and to promote national reconciliation, the restoration of peace and the return to a normal political life.

While it is true that implementing the declaration of the zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic is first and foremost the task of the coastal States, it is even more true that the objectives that have been set cannot be entirely attained without the constant support of States outside the region. This is a fundamental requirement that is also clearly set forth in resolution 41/11 and reiterated in operative paragraph 2 of resolution 44/20, in which the General Assembly

> "Calls upon all States to co-operate in the promotion of the objectives of peace and co-operation established in the declaration of the zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic and to refrain from any action inconsistent with those objectives, particularly actions which may create or aggravate situations of tension and potential conflict in the region". (resolution 44/20, para. 2)

In this respect, my delegation is pleased to note that diplomatic relations have been re-established between Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. We also welcome the agreements set forth in the joint statements issued by the two Governments in Madrid on 19 October 1989 and 15 February 1990. In the interest of international peace and security, the measures adopted by the two parties must be scrupulously observed if a climate of

(Mr. Pennaneach, Togo)

trust is to be created and military confrontations in the Atlantic are to be avoided. Furthermore, negotiations between Argentina and the United Kingdom should begin as soon as possible in order to find a just and lasting solution to the question of the Malvinas Islands.

My delegation also welcomes the readiness the Soviet Union has expressed to consider, together with the United States and other major maritime Powers and with the coastal States of the South Atlantic, steps that should be taken to respond to the General Assembly's call for the reduction of the military presence in that part of the world and the prevention of the deployment of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. This is a very positive and encouraging attitude, which deserves the support of all peace-loving States, particularly the major military Powers.

We must also note that in South Africa the reform and liberalization measures adopted by the South African Government are positive developments among the efforts to bring about the complete eradication of the heinous system of apartheid. Much has changed in South Africa, and President De Klerk must be saluted for his courage. But let us not forget that the black majority is still excluded from holding the slightest degree of political power in that country; we are still very far from majority rule and the principle of one man, one vote; apartheid is still in place and, unfortunately, continues to take its toll of victims.

The complete elimination of racial discrimination in South Africa is also a basic condition for the implementation of the declaration of the zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic. It is therefore important for the international community to lend encouragement to the dialogue that has been initiated between the African National Congress (ANC) and the South African

(Mr. Pennaneach, Togo)

Government in order to contribute to the speedy establishment of a democratic, just and non-racial society in South Africa.

The profound changes occurring in our world confirm the timeliness and wisdom of creating a zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic. The initiatives taken thus far by the coastal States of the South Atlantic already clearly indicate the valuable contribution they can make to safeguarding and strengthening international peace and security.

Giving broad dissemination to scientific and technological knowledge, making the economies of the region more interdependent and complementary, exploiting and making rational use of the material and human resources of the South Atlantic in order to promote the welfare of the peoples of the region, and establishing a regional balance that will encourage the strengthening of international peace and security: that is what we stand to gain if we embark on collective action - action which undoubtedly will require the political will of the coastal States but will equally require co-operation from States outside the zone.

At a time when events are taking place at such a rapid pace that they give the lie to the most reliable forecasts and when the virtues of dialogue, concerted effort and co-operation are becoming increasingly obvious, the international community as a whole must consolidate its support for the implementation of the declaration of a zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic.

Since tomorrow is already a part of today, let us ensure that the full attainment of the goals of the declaration is henceforth a universal concern and is supported by a common will to promote the essential values of solidarity, responsibility and peace.

Mr. DUMEVI (Ghana): The zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic is a regional initiative aimed at transforming the Atlantic into an area of practical co-operation that would enable States of the zone to respond collectively to common aspirations in a changing era and in an increasingly interdependent world.

Since the adoption on 27 October 1986 of resolution 44/11 supporting the declaration of the zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic, the States in the region, including Ghana, have worked consistently in identifying priority programmes that could give practical effect to the objectives of the declaration. At high-level meetings in Rio de Janeiro in July 1988 and in Abuja, Nigeria, in June 1990, States of the zone succeeded in agreeing on critical areas of co-operation which, given proper attention, would further the objectives of the zone.

(Mr. Dumevi, Ghana)

We note with satisfaction that agreements have been reached on co-operation and co-ordination of policies in such activities as regular organization of trade affairs, foreign investment promotions, exchange of commercial and trade intelligence information, exchanges of information on investment opportunities and provision of relevant data for use of member States of the Zone.

Other identified areas of co-operation include increased inter-State trade and other commercial relations, exchange of experiences in scientific and technical fields, culture, education and public information.

On the important question of environment, the States of the Zone are committed to keeping the South Atlantic marine environment free from pollution, particularly the dumping of hazardous and toxic wastes. In this connection the States of the Zone are unanimous that the provisions of the Basel Convention on the Control and Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes should be strengthened by an appropriate international convention with effective penalties that would prevent the dumping of hazardous wastes in the region. The States of the Zone therefore have welcomed the planned United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Brazil in 1992 and view the important international conference as providing an excellent opportunity to the States members to realize the objectives of the Zone.

The special responsibility of the States of the region in the preservation of peace and security in the Atlantic has also continued to be accorded high priority. Namibia's accession to independence last March and its admission as a member of the Zone have provided added urgency for ending outstanding internal conflicts in the region. In this connection the tragic situation in Liberia remains a major challenge. Inspired by humanitarian considerations and the need urgently to put an end to the senseless carnage and destruction of property, Ghana and a number of States in the West African subregion have since August been exerting their best efforts to bring normalcy to Liberia. We wish to use this

(Mr. Dumevi, Ghana)

opportunity to appeal once again to all people of good will to come to the aid of Liberia at this very difficult time.

The Ghana delegation acknowledges the support that the United Nations has given and continues to give to the Zone of Peace, as demonstrated by a meeting of experts held from 12 to 15 June in Brazzaville, Congo, within the framework of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. We also look forward to similar support for the second experts meeting planned for Uruguay in 1991.

We believe that the United Nations can contribute significantly to the realization of the goals of the Zone through the monitoring of events and developments in the region and by liaising with the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, regional and subregional commissions, organizations and institutions.

In sum, the objectives of the Zone substantially complement United Nations efforts in the promotion of international peace, security and development. They also conform in every respect with the current United Nations emphasis on regional approaches to developing co-operation in the promotion of common aspirations.

Draft resolution A/45/L.23, now before the Assembly, seeks to further the objectives of the Zone, as already outlined by previous speakers. As a sponsor of draft resolution A/45/L.23, the Ghana delegation is happy to be associated once more with this noble regional endeavour. We therefore look forward to the overwhelming adoption of the draft resolution.

Mr. ADOUKI (Congo) (interpretation from French): For reasons of geography and history, and because of the shared ambitions of the coastal States, an ocean such as the Atlantic was ideally suited to follow the example of other protected areas such as the Pacific Ocean or the Indian Ocean next to the subcontinent, which were created very early on.

(Mr. Adouki, Congo)

Thus there emerged agreement among Governments desiring peace to contribute to the organization of the Zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic. As early as 27 October 1986, Congo gave its support to the solemn United Nations Declaration adopted by the General Assembly in this connection.

The gestation period of the Zone was, however, lengthy. Two years - fruitful though they were - passed before the representatives of the States of the region met in Rio de Janeiro at the invitation of the Government of Brazil.

The constituent conference had to resolve urgent problems before it could create a zone of peace and progress. Naturally, given its membership, the conference stressed that questions of peace and security and of development were interdependent, and co-operation among the States of the region was declared indispensable to achievement of the Zone's objectives.

Congo participated actively in the Rio de Janeiro conference, and it supported the ambitious conclusions set forth in the Final Document. The Zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic could now see the light of day, though it did not really exist until 29 July 1988.

I am particularly pleased to confirm my country's contribution to the development of the activities of the Zone. It is only natural that we should participate in the present debate so that there may be broader expression of appreciation of the efforts at co-operation made by the States of the area. The activities of the Zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic have over the years gained an increasingly important place in the United Nations system.

The States of the area have every reason to be proud of these very positive developments. Together they have condemned all situations that undermine or jeopardize the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of States on

(Mr. Adouki, Congo)

both sides of the Atlantic. They have adopted policies of co-operation and co-ordination dealing with various activities: regular organization of trade fairs, the promotion of foreign investment, and the exchange of information for use by States members of the area, and much more.

(Mr. Adouki, Congo)

The States in the zone are firmly committed to seeing that the ocean environment of the South Atlantic remains unpolluted. Supervisory machinery was opportunely recommended by the first meeting and it has been set up. Thus far, however, it has enjoyed only limited success.

With regard to the policies of apartheid of the Government of South Africa, the States of the zone are in agreement on a number of recent positive events. They believe that those events hold out the hope that the Pretoria authorities will abandon the policy of apartheid. Meanwhile, pending the achievement of that goal, the comprehensive sanctions against South Africa adopted by the international community must be maintained.

As for South Africa's nuclear activities, they are contrary to the Declaration on the Denuclearization of Africa, to which the African Member States have acceded. They also run counter to the desire to make the South Atlantic a nuclear-free zone.

Congo is pleased to note that at the second general meeting of States of the zone, held last June, satisfaction was expressed at the restoration of diplomatic relations between the Governments of the Republic of Argentina, a member State of the zone, and of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as well as at the agreements contained in the joint governmental declarations issued in Madrid on 19 October 1989 and 15 February 1990. In this positive context of dialogue Congo believes that the General Assembly resolutions on the question of the Malouines (Falkland) Islands will finally be implemented.

At the second meeting of States of the zone the Republic of Namibia was admitted to membership. That was an important decision and an encouraging sign

(Mr. Adouki, Congo)

that the zone of peace will be outward looking. This increase in membership will bring further national support for this great undertaking.

My country will play its part to the best of its ability and in keeping with its responsibilities. Like other States in the region, we welcome the idea of organizing a series of meetings to give concrete expression to the zone and to strengthen it. In this connection, Brazzaville, the capital of Congo and one of the cities within the zone of peace and co-operation in the South Atlantic, successfully organized the first seminar on the law of the sea, which was held from 12 to 15 June 1990. The Congolese are extremely proud and keenly aware of the honour bestowed upon them by the States members of the zone. In addition, they are grateful to the Office for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the United Nations Secretariat and to the United Nations Development Programme for having helped them to organize the seminar.

The contribution of the Brazzaville seminar has been very fruitful. It will be long remembered, since its results will form the basis for the work of the second seminar on the zone, which is scheduled to be held in 1991.

It is important that such efforts be pursued in order to facilitate the attainment of all the objectives of the zone. That is why, for example, the member States are pinning great hopes to the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, to be held in 1992 in Brazil. That Conference should endeavour to resolve the many and varied problems of the environment, including the marine environment.

What I have just said about the scope and nature of activities in the zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic is intended to give a picture not of the culmination of, but merely of a stage in, an enterprise that has only begun to take shape.

Mr. SARDENBERG (Brazil): Since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 44/20 by an overwhelming majority of Member States the South Atlantic region has been the setting for positive developments.

First and foremost among such developments has been the welcoming of independent Namibia. With the other States of the zone, Brazil had always supported the Namibian people in their struggle for self-determination and independence. It is thus with great satisfaction that we now see Namibia occupying its rightful place in the community of nations and in the fraternity of the States of the zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic.

The release of Nelson Mandela and the other positive events in South Africa have fostered our expectation that we shall also be able in the near future to welcome within the South Atlantic community a South Africa free from apartheid. Brazil remains committed to the efforts of the international community to ensure the abolition of the racist system of apartheid.

The joint statement issued by the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on 15 February 1990 represents another important development in the efforts to attain the goals pursued by the States of the zone. In that declaration the two Governments re-established diplomatic relations and agreed upon a set of measures to enhance mutual confidence through the development of their bilateral relations. We believe that the re-establishment of dialogue will certainly contribute to the achievement of a just and durable solution to the existing dispute between those two States.

The implementation of the New York agreement has enhanced the prospects for real peace and stability in the People's Republic of Angola, with which Brazil not only shares our common language but also maintains strong links of friendship and co-operation. The total cessation of any interference in the internal affairs

(Mr. Sardenberg, Brazil)

of Angola will pave the way for a lasting political solution to a conflict that has already taken a heavy toll of the Angolan people and prevented that country from realizing its full potential. Aware of the important role that the United Nations plays in the establishment of a structure of peace in southern Africa, Brazil has been contributing to the contingent of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission.

(Mr. Sardenberg, Brazil)

In South America, in line with the spirit of the zone, Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil are in the process of implementing a comprehensive programme of co-operation and integration, which envisages concrete actions in all fields of their relations. We consider this regional effort to be an unprecedented undertaking among developing countries.

As a further step in the effort to intensify dialogue and constructive co-operation in the zone, the first seminar of the group of experts on the law of the sea from States of the zone was held in Brazzaville last June, with the assistance of the Office for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea and the financial support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The meeting enabled representatives of all States of the region to exchange views and information on issues related to the law of the sea and their respective maritime priorities, and laid the groundwork for the identification of concrete co-operation projects in this important field during the second seminar, to be hosted by the Government of Uruguay from 3 to 6 April 1990.

In their second meeting, held in the new Nigerian capital, Abuja, last June, States of the zone of peace and co-operation had an opportunity to assess these and other important developments, as reflected in the final document of that meeting, as well as to examine new lines for joint action.

While the final document of the Rio de Janeiro meeting set forth a conceptual framework, the second meeting identified concrete measures to implement the objectives of resolution 41/11 and those accepted in the first meeting.

The substantive report of the Secretary-General, contained in document A/45/653, points out that in Abuja the States of the zone recognized the importance and examined concrete forms of co-operation in all fields, from economic and financial matters to commercial and trade information, from tourism to cultural

(Mr. Sardenberg, Brazil)

exchanges. Particular attention was given to the strengthening of scientific and technical co-operation within the zone. In this context, the importance of support by the relevant international organizations was underscored.

Special attention was also given to environmental questions, particularly with regard to the preservation of the marine environment. Bearing in mind the great importance of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, to be held in Brazil in 1992, the Abuja meeting expressed its full support for the Conference and indicated the interest of the States of the zone in strengthening their co-ordination regarding environmental issues.

Above all, the Abuja meeting represented, in itself, concrete evidence that the idea of fostering peace and co-operation in the South Atlantic region stimulates regular contacts among the African and South American States of the zone, thus underlining the specific identity of the South Atlantic region.

As was once again clear in Abuja, the zone represents a strong incentive for the countries of the region to promote, intensify and enlarge their political understanding and co-operation, to formulate and implement joint projects for their economic and social development and the protection of the environment, and to continue working for the preservation of the peace and security of the whole region.

The current transformations on the international scene have strengthened our belief that without peace no significant co-operation is possible, and without co-operation no lasting peace can be attained. Gains already achieved at the global level must now be translated into concrete and imaginative action at the regional level. The zone is an unequivocal indication of our commitment to this basic and essential tenet. Increased international co-operation with the zone will contribute to accelerating the achievement of its aims.

The draft resolution just introduced by Nigeria, of which Brazil is a sponsor

(Mr. Sardenberg, Brazil)

together with other States of the region, reflects the desire of the African and South American States of the South Atlantic to act together to promote peace and co-operation for the benefit of all mankind, and in particular of the peoples of the region.

We hope that this year those very few delegations that have failed to support previous relevant draft resolutions will join in the virtually universal approval of the constructive principles and objectives pursued by the States of the zone of peace and co-operation. We also hope that draft resolution A/45/L.23 will be adopted by consensus.

As a South American State proud of its African heritage, Brazil will continue to work, together with the other South Atlantic States, to promote the achievement of the objectives of the zone. Although it is a primary responsibility of the States of the zone, the full implementation of these objectives requires also the concrete support of all States.

As President Fernando Collor stated in the general debate:

> "The zone of peace and co-operation ... gains in substance and, with the relaxation of international tensions, will encompass new elements of global interest, such as the protection and preservation of the marine environment. ... our zone of peace and co-operation may play an innovative role on a global scale, provided more committed financial and technological support is available." (A/45/PV.4, p. 13)

At the dawning of a new era in which peace and co-operation seem to be gaining their full meaning, it is our earnest hope that the zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic will also receive that concrete support from the international commuunity.

The PRESIDENT: I should like to propose that the list of speakers in the debate on agenda item 31 be closed now.

It was so decided.

Mr. PIRIZ BALLON (Uruguay) (interpretation from Spanish): The zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic is entering its fifth year at a crucial time in the history of international relations. In this context, an assessment of the results achieved so far is in order.

In October 1986 the General Assembly adopted resolution 41/11, solemnly declaring the establishment of this zone of peace and co-operation. At the time, nobody would have imagined that four years later the goals and ultimate objectives of the declaration would be well on the way to attainment. Nobody could have anticipated the new climate of understanding between the major Powers, which has a decisive influence on the state of the world, promoting greater security and stability in the world and contributing in particular to the elimination of certain regional conflicts - some of them, precisely in the South Atlantic region.

The objectives of the declaration can be divided into two major categories, which are interrelated and inseparable. The first of these categories is the strengthening of peace and security in the region, in consonance with the purposes and principles of the Charter. We must, however, realize that the general picture as regards regional peace and security has its bright spots and its shadows.

(Mr. Piriz Ballon, Uruguay)

Although there has been some progress based on the historical relations between the countries of the zone, much of that progress is limited, and there remain sources of tension that constitute significant obstacles to fulfilment of the purposes of the declaration.

It was with enormous pleasure that on 21 March this year we witnessed Namibia's accession to independence, its admission to membership of the United Nations and its automatic membership of the zone, in accordance with paragraph 5 of the declaration.

The situation in southern Africa continues to develop favourably. We hope that we are witnessing the beginning of the end of the odious apartheid régime, whose continued existence is one of the most obvious and significant obstacles to attainment of the objectives of the declaration.

Furthermore, Argentina and the United Kingdom have restored diplomatic relations and begun a process of dialogue and negotiation which we hope will lead to a peaceful, just, final and comprehensive solution to the Malvinas Islands conflict in keeping with the relevant General Assembly resolutions.

The creation of a zone of peace in the South Atlantic presupposes the non-existence of nuclear weapons therein. There must of necessity be an interrelationship between this zone, the nuclear-free zone in Latin America and the Caribbean and the Declaration on the Denuclearization of Africa. My country reaffirms its strong conviction that the denuclearization of the zone must be effective. We welcome the progress that has been made recently in Latin America, in particular the results of the recent meeting in Foz do Iguaçu between the Governments of Argentina and Brazil, which opened still further the path towards full compliance with the Treaty of Tlatelolco.

(Mr. Piriz Ballon, Uruguay)

Another important section of the declaration of 27 October 1986 concerns the promotion of regional co-operation for economic and social development, on the basis of the special interest priority and responsibility of the States in the area. In keeping with this objective, my Government not only pursues its policy of developing regional co-operation and integration in Latin America in general, in particular with the other two Latin American members of the zone: Argentina and Brazil, but also has made a major effort to tighten and extend the historical bonds of friendship and fruitful co-operation with the coastal States of the African continent.

In addition to this bilateral or subregional action, the 23 countries of the zone, as a group, have taken specific action to promote co-operation. First, they have given priority to the issue of the law of the sea. This is only logical because the Atlantic Ocean is our principal link.

The first meeting of the group of experts on the law of the sea of the States members of the zone was held in Brazzaville last June and was a great success. Its purpose was the exchange of information regarding developments relating to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. In addition, an effort was made to promote mutual understanding of the different legislation in the States concerned and to encourage studies in this area. In April next year my country will have the honour of being host to the second meeting, whose purpose will be to determine and identify concrete co-operation projects in this area.

My delegation would like to stress its appreciation of the very welcome support of the Office of Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), whose participation made a decisive contribution to the success of the Brazzaville seminar. Those bodies are acting similarly in connection with the seminar that is to take place in Montevideo.

(Mr. Piriz Ballon, Uruguay)

The continuing deterioration in the environment at the global level and the dangers to the ecosystem of the South Atlantic have prompted the States in the zone to assign priority importance to keeping their maritime areas free of pollution and from the dumping of dangerous wastes, both toxic and nuclear. To this end, we decided in Abuja to devote our efforts to strengthening the supervisory machinery and promoting the dissemination of information, as recommended in the Rio declaration.

The conservation and rational development of the living marine resources of the region in the face of a rapid increase in catches in the South Atlantic is one source of major concern to my country, which in recent years has invested a significant proportion of our limited resources in the development of our fishing sector.

Last, but not least, we wish to refer to institutional questions. The zone of peace and co-operation, which this Assembly created four years ago, is now a reality that is becoming stronger every day and has acquired its own momentum. We have come a long way, but we still have a long way to go. Obviously the objectives of the zone are very ambitious and many of them should be seen as long-term goals. If anything can be stated with certainty, however, it is that the member States have begun a process of step-by-step consolidation, on a sound foundation and consistently.

We have had two meetings - one in Rio to identify areas of co-operation and the other in Abuja to make definite progress towards the attainment of many of our objectives. We have established flexible, effective co-ordination machinery, which is functioning quite satisfactorily, without institutional rigidity or bureaucratic impediments of any kind. Above all, we have received practically unanimous support, in the shape of four General Assembly resolutions, from the international

(Mr. Piriz Ballon, Uruguay)

community. We are sure that that support will be extended to cover the fifth draft resolution, which was so eloquently introduced by our co-ordinator, the representative of Nigeria, Mr. Adeyemi. We firmly believe that it is balanced and constructive and deserves support.

In spite of the fact that the zone of peace and co-operation is a recent and constantly evolving legal concept, it should be stressed that its existence and its principles are entirely consistent with those of the zones created by international law. This is clear from the consistency of the General Assembly resolutions and the declarations of Rio and Abuja. In this regard, I draw attention to the sixth preambular paragraph of the draft resolution and to the content of operative paragraph 9, which reflects the aspirations expressed in Abuja by the members of the zone and their desire to turn the zone into an effective instrument capable of promoting respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms, racial equality, justice and freedom as integral elements of peace, development and co-operation at all levels.

Uruguay is a country that cherishes peace, a developing country and a maritime country. As a result, we are deeply committed to the principles and objectives of the zone. My Government therefore gives the highest priority in its foreign policy to the consolidation of the zone. It is an important contribution to peace and security in our region of the world and an ideal vehicle for co-operation between African and Latin American coastal countries. It also represents the convergence of a large number of principles, legitimate interests and praiseworthy attitudes on the part of 23 countries in two continents. We therefore reaffirm once again Uruguay's commitment to the principles underlying the zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic and our determination to persist in our efforts to ensure, together with the other member States, the fulfilment of its purposes.

Mr. KIBIDI NGOVUKA (Zaire) (interpretation from French): I ask your indulgence, Sir, if I waive the pleasant duty of congratulating you on your election to the prestigious post of President of the General Assembly for this session. Better qualified speakers than I, including the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Zaire, have done this before me both warmly and eloquently.

Our world is undergoing major political upheavals and there is increasing speculation about the future of the world, particularly following the Paris meeting at which 34 European Heads of State or Government set the seal on reconciliation after the horrors of the Second World War and the division of the Western world into two antagonistic ideological blocs. Now the world is witnessing an acceleration of history along lines as yet ill-defined, which undoubtedly foreshadows a world bent on international co-operation and progress going beyond the ideological struggle that has unfortunately dominated relations between States for the past 45 years.

Caught in the whirlwind of the political changes that are part and parcel of our time, the countries of the South are puzzled and cannot as yet clearly discern the signs on the horizon. Consequently they are wondering what the future holds for them. Is this the beginning of the marginalization of the South in international affairs, or is marginalization already a fact? No one can give a precise answer to such a question but the upheavals in the world are a cause of anxiety.

While we were considering these questions, however, a number of Latin American and African coastal States of the Atlantic Ocean decided to meet for the first time in Rio de Janeiro in 1988 to lay the foundations for a zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic on the basis of General Assembly resolution 41/11, adopted on 27 October 1986.

(Mr. Kibidi Ngovuka, Zaire)

In resolution 41/11 the General Assembly emphasizes the need to preserve the region of the South Atlantic from measures of militarization, the arms race, the presence of foreign military bases and, above all, nuclear weapons; it calls upon States of all other regions to reduce and eventually to eliminate their military presence in the region of the South Atlantic and to refrain from introducing nuclear weapons and extending into the region rivalries and conflicts that are foreign to it; and it calls upon all States to co-operate in the elimination of all sources of tension in the zone, to respect the national unity, sovereignty, political independence and territorial integrity of every State therein, to refrain from the threat or use of force, and to observe strictly the principle that the territory of a State shall not be the object of military occupation resulting from the use of force in violation of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as the principle that the acquisition of territories by force is inadmissible. The Assembly reaffirms that the elimination of apartheid and the attainment of the self-determination and independence of peoples, as well as the cessation of all acts of aggression and subversion against States in the zone, are essential for peace and security in that region.

The General Assembly also calls upon the States of the zone of the South Atlantic to promote further regional co-operation and singles out, as possible areas of joint action, social and economic development, the protection of the environment and the conservation of the biological resources of the area.

In resolution 42/16, of 10 November 1987, the General Assembly called upon States of the region to adopt and carry out concrete programmes to achieve the goals of the declaration of the zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic.

Co-operation and development are the key words that define the fundamental concepts of the new zone. Zaire was present when the zone was first created at the

(Mr. Kibidi Ngovuka, Zaire)

Rio de Janeiro meeting in 1988. Since then it has been actively involved in the various conferences connected therewith.

We are becoming increasingly aware of the important role which South-South co-operation, that is, co-operation between the developing countries, can play in promoting progress in our countries. Progress is attainable only by mastering fundamental technologies and sciences. At present, when it comes to science and technology mankind is divided into two categories: the haves and the have-nots. Our countries, which account for 80 per cent of the world population, should be able to create our own scientific and technological potential in order to improve the quality of life of our peoples. In our countries, improved education and research in fundamental sciences is of decisive importance for the achievement of this objective, because no country can develop in the long term without the necessary basic potential for education, training and research in fundamental sciences. Science and technology can prosper only if a scientific cultural community is formed at the grassroots level. This is a prerequisite for proper development sustained by a policy of sound management of economic and financial resources.

My delegation fully supports the draft resolution submitted by all the States members of the zone of peace represented at the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly. It shares the views expressed in the draft resolution, in particular in paragraphs 8 and 9 - namely, that technical co-operation among developing countries is essential and that they should receive assistance from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other relevant United Nations bodies, and, that the aspirations of the States of the zone to make it an active instrument for fostering human rights, fundamental freedoms, racial equality, justice and liberty as integral elements of peace, development and co-operation at national and regional levels should be supported.

(Mr. Kibidi Ngovuka, Zaire)

The delegation of Zaire, together with the other members of the zone, hopes that the draft resolution before us will be unanimously adopted, since it is fully consistent with the aims of the Charter of the United Nations.

Mr. SY (Senegal) (interpretation from French): My delegation is always pleased to take part in a debate on the agenda item dealing with the zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic.

As a country that is profoundly concerned about peaceful coexistence and solidarity among States and peoples, Senegal has constantly promoted the efforts of the international community to turn this zone into a haven of peace where activities of public utility can be developed to the benefit of mankind as a whole.

I am pleased to recall that from the outset my country gave its full support to the Brazilian initiative which, after intense and fruitful consultations, enabled the General Assembly, on 27 October 1986, to adopt a declaration giving the ocean space between Africa and South America the status of a zone of peace and co-operation.

(Mr. Sy, Senegal)

Since the adoption of this important declaration the States of the region have constantly increased their contacts with each other to seek together, with the support of the United Nations, the best ways and means to attain the objectives of the zone. To that end, two meetings have been held, one in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 25 to 29 July 1988, and the other in Abuja, Nigeria, from 25 to 29 June this year.

Between those two meetings experts from the States concerned met from 12 to 15 June this year in Brazzaville, the Congo, in a seminar organized with financial support from the United Nations Development Programme, with the very effective help of the expertise of the United Nations Office for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea.

At the various meetings particular emphasis was laid on, first, the need for States parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea to ensure that in the Convention's implementation due account be given to the interests of all nations; next, the efforts required of States of the zone to strengthen their economic, scientific and technical co-operation by establishing a regular exchange of data and information, particularly in the areas of management, conservation and exploitation of fishery resources, as well as the protection of the marine environment; and, finally, the importance of promoting technical co-operation between developing countries, through financial assistance from the United Nations Development Programme.

My delegation would like to take this opportunity to express its pleasure over the important conclusions reached at the Abuja meeting and the Brazzaville seminar. We hope that they will receive wide support in our Organization and among Member States. Such support should make possible the holding of the next regional seminar, planned to be held in 1991 in Uruguay, where we expect concrete, effective measures to be adopted.

(Mr. Sy, Senegal)

The South Atlantic is regarded in Senegal as not only an instrument for economic development, but also a precious cultural heritage, particularly because of the close links between the sea and mankind.

For all those reasons, my delegation earnestly hopes that the zone will be spared tensions and conflicts and will become a vehicle for co-operation and solidarity between all the States concerned. In this connection, the international community should spare no effort to keep the zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction.

There can be no doubt that Namibia's accession to independence and joining the zone give reason for great satisfaction. My delegation greatly welcomes these changes, but the apartheid policy of the South African régime continues, despite the progress made in South Africa. In my delegation's opinion, South Africa should be encouraged to speed up the process of totally eliminating its system of apartheid and, as it has promised, to place its nuclear installations under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

My delegation notes the Basel Convention on the Control of Trans-Boundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, and we reaffirm our support for all appropriate measures to stop the traffic in such wastes in the South Atlantic zone.

Here we emphasize the interest that should be taken in the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, to be held in Brazil in 1992; thanks to a perfect harmonization of the positions of our States, it should help us attain the objectives of the zone and aid the search for a satisfactory solution to the environmental problems that it may confront.

For all those reasons, my delegation is particularly happy to sponsor, on behalf of Senegal, the draft resolution on the South Atlantic, introduced with such verve and skill by the representative of Nigeria.

(Mr. Sy, Senegal)

In conclusion, I hope that in this new era of détente the draft resolution will enjoy broad support and that the Assembly will vote for it unanimously.

The PRESIDENT: We have heard the last speaker in the debate on this item.

The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/45/L.23, as orally revised, to which there is an additional sponsor: the Gambia.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: United States of America

Abstaining: Japan

Draft resolution A/45/L.23, as orally revised, was adopted by 150 votes to 1, with 1 abstention (resolution 45/36)*

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* Subsequently the delegation of Papua New Guinea advised the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.

The PRESIDENT: I shall now call on those representatives who wish to explain their votes. I remind delegations that, in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Ms. MENDES (Portugal): The delegation of Portugal was pleased to support draft resolution A/45/L.23, which the General Assembly has just adopted, concerning the zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic, as it has supported similar draft resolutions at the last two sessions of the General Assembly. As we stated on those occasions, we recognize the important, positive trends taking place in international relations, lessening tensions throughout the world.

In this regard, the resolution cannot fail to contribute to the strengthening of international peace and co-operation and serve to promote the principles and purposes of the United Nations Charter.

Portugal has always paid a great deal of attention to matters relating to the South Atlantic, a region with which we have longstanding historical ties and where are located the vast majority of countries where Portuguese is spoken - Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau and Sao Tome and Principe - with which we maintain close relations. In accordance with that position, we express our appreciation of the general improvements in the wording of the draft resolution.

However, as we did last year, we should like to express our reservations about the deficient geographical delimitation of the area covered by the provisions of the resolution.

Mr. AMIGUES (France) (interpretation from French): Since we have historical links of friendship and co-operation with the States of the South Atlantic region and since we support the efforts that have been made to ensure co-operation between States at the regional level, France this year voted in favour of draft resolution A/45/L.23, as it did last year in connection with a similar text.

Nevertheless, my country reiterates the reservations it has expressed to the idea of a zone of peace of the South Atlantic, as set forth again in the text before us. These concerns relate chiefly to the uncertainty about the geographical limits of the envisaged zone as well as to the precise nature of the obligations incumbent upon the States involved.

I would also recall the major importance that France has always attached to ensuring that the creation of a zone of peace or a denuclearized zone in no way does violence to the rules of international law, particularly those that apply to the utilization of maritime and air space. In this light, my delegation is particularly pleased that a new sixth paragraph was inserted in the preamble to the resolution.

France earnestly hopes, in a constructive spirit, that all the remaining ambiguities will also be removed when this agenda item is considered at the next session of the General Assembly.

Mr. KENET (Israel): My delegation supported draft resolution A/45/L.23, as it has always been Israel's policy that the cause of peace and co-operation between States is best served when based on a regional agreement.

However, my delegation's support of this resolution is subject to the position of the Government of Israel that the establishment of zones of peace and co-operation should be the result of multilateral negotiations by the States concerned rather than of a General Assembly resolution.

(Mr. Kenet, Israel)

My delegation would also like to reiterate and to maintain for the record the reservations expressed in its statement in explanation of vote after the voting on General Assembly resolution 41/11 on 27 October 1986.

Mr. FRASER (Canada): Canada voted in favour of draft resolution A/45/L.23, because we support the efforts of the international community, and in particular the States of the South Atlantic, to promote peace and co-operation in that important region.

One of the issues addressed in this resolution is that of the transfer and disposal of hazardous, toxic and nuclear wastes in the South Atlantic. In this regard I would note that Canada strongly supports the international régimes already in place to control some of these activities. These include the regulations of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on the transboundary movement of nuclear wastes and provisions of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Wastes and Their Disposal, as well as the London Dumping Convention, which regulates the dumping of wastes at sea.

Canada's vote in favour of draft resolution A/45/L.23 is without prejudice to our commitment to the aforementioned international régimes.

Mr. STEIN (United States of America): I should like to set forth the two reasons why the United States does not support this resolution.

In the first instance, the United States does not support attempts to institute an internationally recognized zone of peace by General Assembly resolution. We believe that such zones of peace can be established only through multilateral negotiations by the relevant parties.

Our second concern refers to freedom of navigation. While the United States appreciates the positive references the sponsors have made in order to address our concerns on this matter, we note that they are only in the preambular portion of the resolution. Furthermore, given the territorial claims of some States in the

(Mr. Stein, United States)

region, we believe that this resolution does not sufficiently protect the right of innocent passage through territorial waters as established by customary international law and the law-of-the-sea negotiations.

Finally, by way of general comment, we believe that the work of the United Nations would be enhanced by the introduction of draft resolutions that focused more closely on the issues at hand. A number of operative paragraphs in the text before us deal with environmental, with social and with developmental concerns. As they are presented, we believe they have a tenuous relation to the concept of a zone of peace.

Mr. MONAGAS LESSEUR (Venezuela) (interpretation from Spanish): My delegation has always supported the creation of zones of peace in various regions of the world and has shared the international community's view that this contributes to strengthening the security of the States in those zones and international peace and security in general.

Venezuela, as a coastal State of the South Atlantic, into which the Orinoco - our principal waterway - flows, is highly interested in the initiative of designating the South Atlantic a zone committed exclusively to the promotion of co-operation between the coastal States and other States concerned and to the co-ordination of the efforts of States in common action for the region's peace, security and progress.

Mr. SATOH (Japan): I wish to say a few words in explanation of my country's abstention in the voting on the draft resolution before us.

Japan understands and supports in principle the aspirations and initiatives of the countries in the South Atlantic zone with regard to securing peace and promoting regional co-operation in the framework of the zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic.

(Mr. Satoh, Japan)

However, Japan believes that any attempt to establish internationally recognized zones of peace or denuclearized zones should be made through multilateral negotiations by the parties concerned and not simply through a General Assembly resolution. Japan also considers that the establishment of such zones should not run counter in any way to the rules of international law that apply in particular to the use of maritime and air space.

The PRESIDENT: We have thus concluded our consideration of agenda item 31.

AGENDA ITEM 16

ELECTIONS TO FILL VACANCIES IN SUBSIDIARY ORGANS

(a) ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL

(i) ELECTION OF TWELVE MEMBERS: NOTE BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/45/296)

(ii) ELECTION OF A MEMBER TO FILL A CASUAL VACANCY: NOTE BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/45/296/Add.1)

(b) ELECTION OF TWENTY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND CO-ORDINATION: NOTE BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/45/297 and Add.1)

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly will first proceed to the election of 12 members of the World Food Council to replace those members whose term of office expires on 31 December 1990. After that election is completed, the Assembly will proceed to the election of one member of the World Food Council from the Socialist States of Eastern Europe to fill a casual vacancy brought about by the accession of the former German Democratic Republic to the Federal Republic of Germany with effect from 3 October 1990. The term of office of the former German Democratic Republic was to expire on 31 December 1991.

In accordance with resolution 3348 (XXIX) of 17 December 1974, the General Assembly elects the members of the World Food Council upon the nomination by the Economic and Social Council.

(The President)

The nominations by the Economic and Social Council for the present election are contained in documents A/45/296 and A/45/296/Add.1.

The Assembly will now proceed to the election of 12 members of the World Food Council.

The 12 retiring members are: Bulgaria, Canada, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Indonesia, Madagascar, Mexico, Thailand, Turkey, Uruguay, the United States of America and Zambia. In accordance with resolution 3348 (XXIX), retiring members are eligible for re-election.

The following States have been nominated by the Economic and Social Council: three African States for three vacancies - Gambia, Kenya and Lesotho; three Asian States for three vacancies - Bangladesh, China and Nepal; two Latin American States for two vacancies - Colombia and Mexico; one Socialist State of Eastern Europe for one vacancy - Bulgaria; three Western European and Other States for three vacancies - Canada, Turkey and the United States of America.

The number of candidates nominated from among the African States, the Asian States, the Latin American and Caribbean States, the Socialist States of Eastern Europe, and the Western European and Other States corresponds to the number of seats to be filled in each of these regions.

In accordance with paragraph 16 of decision 34/401, the Assembly may, in elections to subsidiary organs, dispense with secret balloting when the number of candidates corresponds to the number of seats to be filled. Accordingly, may I take it that the Assembly wishes to declare the States nominated by the Economic and Social Council elected members of the World Food Council for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1991.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly will now proceed to elect one member of the World Food Council from the Socialist States of Eastern Europe for the unexpired term of office of the former German Democratic Republic. Yugoslavia has been nominated by the Economic and Social Council.

As stated earlier, in accordance with paragraph 16 of decision 34/401, the Assembly may, in elections to subsidiary organs, dispense with secret balloting when the number of candidates corresponds to the number of seats to be filled. Accordingly, may I take it that the Assembly wishes to declare Yugoslavia elected a member of the World Food Council for a term beginning immediately and ending on 31 December 1991?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: I congratulate the States that have been elected members of the World Food Council.

We have concluded our consideration of sub-item (a) of agenda item 16.

We shall now turn to sub-item (b) of agenda item 16, "Election of twenty members of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination".

In accordance with General Assembly decision 42/318 of 17 December 1987, the Assembly elects the members of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination upon the nomination of the Economic and Social Council.

The Assembly has before it documents A/45/297 and A/45/297/Add.1, which contain the nominations by the Economic and Social Council to fill the vacancies in the Committee which will occur as a result of the expiration on 31 December 1990 of the term of office of Austria, Bahrain, Bangaldesh, Canada, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Germany, India, Kenya, Mexico, Pakistan, Poland, Romania, Rwanda, Sweden, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and Yugoslavia.

(The President)

The following States have been nominated by the Economic and Social Council: four African States for four vacancies - Burundi, Congo, Nigeria and Uganda; four Asian States for four vacancies - India, Indonesia, Iraq and Pakistan; four Latin American and Caribbean States for four vacancies - Brazil, Chile, Colombia, and Trinidad and Tobago; five Socialist States of Eastern Europe for three vacancies - Bulgaria, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Poland, Romania and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic; five Western European and Other States for five vacancies - Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. With regard to the Socialist States of Eastern Europe, the reference in document A/45/297 to the candidature of the German Democratic Republic predates the accession of the German Democratic Republic to the Federal Republic of Germany and is of course no longer relevant.

The number of candidates nominated from among the African States, the Asian States, the Latin American and Caribbean States and the Western European and Other States corresponds to the number of seats to be filled in each of those regions.

In accordance with paragraph 16 of decision 34/401, the Assembly may, in elections to subsidiary organs, dispense with secret balloting when the number of candidates corresponds to the number of seats to be filled. Accordingly, may I take it that the Assembly wishes to declare those States nominated by the Economic and Social Council, with the exception of the five States from the Socialist States of Eastern Europe, elected members of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1991?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: The representative of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic has asked to be allowed to make a statement, and I now call upon him.

Mr. PASHKEVICH (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic)(interpretation from Russian): I should like to inform the Assembly that, in agreement with the delegation of the Ukrainian SSR, the Byelorussian SSR has decided to withdraw its candidature for a seat on the Committee on Programme and Co-ordination in the present elections in favour of the Ukrainian SSR.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic for his co-operation.

Members have heard the statement of the representative of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic. There are now four candidates from the Socialist States of Eastern Europe for three seats on the Committee on Programme and Co-ordination - namely, Bulgaria, Poland, Romania and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic. Since the number of candidates from the Socialist States of Eastern Europe still does not correspond to the number of seats to be filled from that region, we shall have to proceed to a secret ballot.

Ballot papers marked "D," indicating that three States are to be elected from the Socialist States of Eastern Europe, are being distributed. In view of the withdrawal of one candidate, only the following four States nominated by the Economic and Social Council are eligible: Bulgaria, Poland, Romania and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic. I should like to stress that the names of only three of those States should be written on the ballot papers.

In accordance with the rules of procedure, the States receiving the largest number of votes, and not less than the majority required, will be declared elected.

I request representatives to use only the ballot papers that are being distributed and to write on them the names of the three States for which they wish

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to vote. Ballot papers containing more than three names will be declared invalid. Names of ineligible States appearing on a ballot paper will not be counted at all.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Conmy (Ireland), Ms. Dreyfus (Nicaragua), Mr. Ranasinghe (Sri Lanka) and Mr. Mfula (Zambia) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The meeting was suspended at 12.40 p.m. and resumed at 1 p.m.

The PRESIDENT: The result of the voting is as follows:

Number of ballot papers:	151
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	151
Abstentions:	0
Number of members voting:	151
Required majority:	76
Number of votes obtained:	
Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic	118
Poland	115
Bulgaria	106
Romania	101

Having obtained the required majority, Bulgaria, Poland and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic were elected members of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1991.

The PRESIDENT: I congratulate the States that have been elected members of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, and thank the tellers for their assistance.

We have concluded our consideration of sub-item (b) of agenda item 16.

AGENDA ITEM 7 (continued)

NOTIFICATION BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL UNDER ARTICLE 12, PARAGRAPH 2, OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS: NOTE BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/45/501)

The PRESIDENT: The General Assembly has before it a note by the Secretary-General, distributed under the symbol A/45/501.

May I take it that the General Assembly decides to take note of this document?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: We have concluded our consideration of agenda item 7.

PROGRAMME OF WORK

The PRESIDENT: I have to make an announcement with regard to the tentative programme of work for the rest of November and the beginning of December.

On Wednesday, 28 November, in the afternoon, the Assembly will take up all the reports of the Sixth Committee.

On Thursday, 29 November, in the afternoon, the Assembly, as has already been announced, will begin consideration of agenda item 23, "Question of Palestine".

On Monday, 3 December, in the afternoon, the Assembly will take up the reports of the First Committee on agenda items 45 to 60, 62 to 66 and 155, relating to disarmament.

On Tuesday, 4 December, in the morning, the Assembly will begin consideration of agenda item 34, "Policies of apartheid of the Government of South Africa", which was originally scheduled to begin in the afternoon of Monday, 3 December.

On Thursday, 6 December, in the afternoon, the Assembly will begin consideration of agenda item 35, "The situation in the Middle East", instead of in the morning of that day, as originally scheduled.

Agenda item 11, "Report of the Security Council", which was originally scheduled for consideration on Friday, 7 December, in the morning, will be taken up instead on the afternoon of the same day, after agenda item 35.

On Monday, 10 December, in the morning, the Assembly will take up the remaining reports of the First Committee. It will also consider agenda item 117, "Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations".

On Tuesday, 11 December, in the morning, the Assembly will consider agenda item 33, "Law of the sea".

(The President)

I hope that during the course of the week beginning 10 December the Assembly will be in a position to take up the remaining agenda items and Committee reports.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.